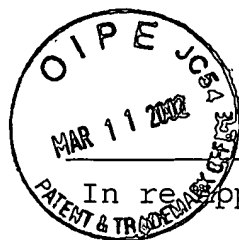


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

LOWE ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/965,775

Filed: September 27, 2001

Art Unit: 2681

Examiner: Unknown

Atty. Docket No.: 01-313-US-D

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. The items listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 may be deemed to be pertinent to the above-identified application and are made of record to assist the Patent and Trademark Office in its examination of this application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to fully consider the items and to independently ascertain their teaching.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being

**MAILED**

☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service on February 28, 2002 with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

**FACSIMILE**

☐ transmitted by facsimile on [date] to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Type Signature Name

Maureen E. Kopnicky

*Maureen E. Kopnicky*  
(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

1. ☒ Enclosed is PTO Form 1449 (and a duplicate thereof).
2. ☐ Items listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 are not in the English language.
- ☐ For each of the following items, an English-language translation of that item or a portion thereof or a concise explanation of the relevance of that item is enclosed:
- ☐ For each of the following items, a concise explanation of that item is incorporated in the specification of the above-identified application:
- ☐ For each of the following items, a corresponding U.S. or other English-language patent is enclosed. Please consider the U.S. or other English-language patents in accordance with the procedure set forth in MPEP § 609:
3. ☒ **Submission in Accordance with 37 CFR § 1.98(d).**

Any copy of the items listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 that is not enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement was previously cited by or submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office in Application Serial No. 09/161,892, filed September 28, 1998, of which the present application relies upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120.

4. ☒ **Submission in Accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(b).**

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed

- ☐ With the application;
- ☐ Within three months of the filing date of a national application;
- ☐ Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage in an international application; or
- ☒ Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits,

and NO FEE is due for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement.

5. ☐ **Submission in Accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(c).**

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the first mailing date of either

☐ A final action under § 1.113; or

☐ A notice of allowance under § 1.311.

☐ A fee is due for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement and the fee is paid below; or

☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by one of the certifications pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97(e), and NO FEE is due for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement.

6. ☐ Submission in Accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(d).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of either

☐ A final action under § 1.113; or

☐ A notice of allowance under § 1.311,

whichever comes first, but before payment of the issue fee, and is accompanied by

a. One of the certifications pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97(e), which is set forth below;

b. The attached petition requesting consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement; and

c. The petition fee under 37 CFR § 1.17(i)(1), which is paid below.

7. Certification Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(e).

☐ The undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement; or

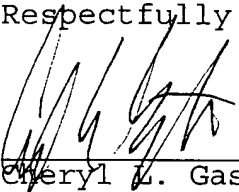
☐ The undersigned certifies that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, or to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

8. Fee Payment Being Made.

- ☐ Enclosed
- ☐ \$180.00 fee for submission under 37 CFR § 1.97(c).
- ☐ \$180.00 fee for submission under 37 CFR § 1.97(d).
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$[Amount] to cover the fee payment is enclosed.
- ☐ Charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 18-0582. A duplicate copy of this communication is attached.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this Information Disclosure Statement or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0582. A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 28, 2002

  
Cheryl L. Gastineau  
Reg. No. 39,469

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Pittsburgh, PA 15230  
(412) 288-4152

Agent for Applicant